

### **ABSTRACT**

A pointer-based modulation coding method and apparatus are presented. The pointer-based modulation coding operates to produce, from an unconstrained data stream of data blocks to be delivered to a data channel, a constrained data stream which satisfies a  
5 data blocks to be delivered to a data channel, a constrained data stream which satisfies a code constraint of the data channel. The pointer-based modulation coding replaces code constraint violating bit sequences occurring in each data block with values that form a linked list in such data block.

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